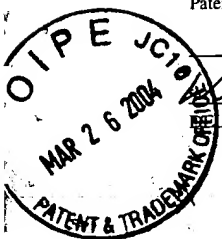


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March 22, 2004

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S. CHRISTENSEN (Date of Signature)



PATENT
TS-6196 (US)

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of)	Group Art Unit 3726
)	
Wilhelmus Hubertus Paulus Maria Heijnen)	Examiner: ESSAMA OMGBA
)	
Serial No. 9/724,079)	March 22, 2004
)	
Filed NOVEMBER 28, 2000)	
)	
PIPE CONNECTING METHOD)	
)	

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

RESPONSE

The following amendment is in response to a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed October 16, 2003. The Amendment to the Claims section of a response mailed on October 6, 2003 is to be replaced by the attached Amendment to the Claims section. Reconsideration of this application, and allowance of the claims in view of these amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

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